

Grassroots | students going green

What shade of green is YOUR school?

If you care about your school and your planet and want to do something about it, enter the Green Omaha Coalition's Grassroots Competition!

1. Dream up a project to reduce your school's impact on the environment.
2. Complete an application form by November 22nd, 2011. The application should explain your project and plan of action.
3. *Now get going!* Put your plan in action, measure its impact and report on the efforts you have made for your school and your planet.

You could win a \$500 or \$250 grant to continue the efforts of your environmental project. *Get started now! Your planet needs you!*

How the Competition Works:

Grassroots is all about the students. We're looking for students to create projects that will improve their school's environmental impact. There is no limit to the possibilities. If you can create it, we want to see it!

The first thing you must do is submit an application form detailing what your plan of action will be. You may apply as an individual or a team. All applicants must have a teacher or administrator as a sponsor.

Project Evaluation Categories:

There are four main categories for evaluating the proposed projects. They are (in no order of preference):

1. Innovation and creativity
2. Positive environmental impacts (e.g., energy savings, waste reduction, pollution prevention, landscape enhancements, use of local food sources, etc)
3. The impact of your project. Does it impact just a few students or the whole community?
4. Potential for continuation and/or expansion either within your school or to other schools or sites.

There are two divisions that will be awarded. One division is for elementary school students (K-6th Grade). The other division is for middle and high school students (7th-12th Grade). Each division has a chance to win the grand prize of \$500 or one of two \$250 prizes.

Prizes for each division will be awarded on December 13th, 2011 and your project can begin!

In late April, 2012 you and your school will be recognized on stage during Earth Day celebrations. You will need to prepare a tri-fold poster displaying your project and progress at that time.

Lastly, we ask that you provide a final report by May 15th, 2012. Your report need not be long. We just want to recap what you've done and the results of your project.

Ready to Get Started?

See our "How Do I Get Started?" section for more information on how to plan your project.

For further information regarding the rules and prizes, contact Dave Lampe, dave.lampe@lra-inc.com or 402-496-2498.

I want to enter the Grassroots Competition!

How Do I Get Started?

Okay, you want to help your school go green, but you're not sure where to get started. The first thing you should do is decide what changes you'd like to make. We've provided a couple of possibilities here, but we encourage you to use your imagination. The sky is the limit!

- Water conservation
- Energy efficiency
- Waste reduction
- Landscaping
- Cleaning
- Construction
- Air pollution

We also encourage you to take a look at the GOC's Green Schools Program Scorecard. The scorecard is a great place to start for ideas. Who knows, you may even want to submit to get your school certified down the road!

Remember, the 4 main categories for evaluating your project are:

1. Innovation and creativity
2. Positive environmental impacts (e.g., energy savings, waste reduction, pollution prevention, landscape enhancements, use of local food sources, etc)
3. The impact of your project. Does it impact just a few students or the whole community?
4. Potential for continuation and/or expansion either within your school or to other schools or sites.

As part of this project, you'll need to have a teacher or administrator to be a sponsor. If you don't already have that person in mind, find one now. You'll also need your school principal to sign off on the project for your registration.

Once you have a school employee willing to assist with your project, work on developing a plan of action. How will you put your plan in motion? Keep in mind that if your plan involves other staff of the school, you'll want to meet with them to get their approval before you start working. Be realistic in terms of what you would like to accomplish but, again, think big and be creative! Provide a summary of your project on the form. Attach the details of your project to the form. Think about how you can measure the impact of your project and show progress. Explain what makes your project special!

Okay, so you have everyone's approval and you know what you want to do and how you want to do it, right? Great! Now send in your application form – the due date is November 22nd.

Grants to three applicants (\$500 grand prize and \$250 for 2nd and 3rd place) will be awarded in each division by December 13, 2011.

Awarded a grant?

See our “Now what?” section for more information on how to get going, get recognized, and inspire others through follow-up on the project.

I've been awarded the grant! Now what?

You were awarded the grant? Congratulations! Now you are ready to get to work. The more informed you are about your subject, the more successful your project will be. Use resources available on line and in your community. Ask for help if needed. Involve your classmates and get the support needed to make your project effective.

Now that you've got your project underway we want to recognize you and your school for winning the grant and hear from you on how it's progressing. Omaha Earth Day is April 21st this year. You will be invited to join us on the Main Stage and be recognized for your efforts in making a difference at your school.

Additionally, we would like you to put together a standard tri-fold poster display at the Green Omaha Coalition's booth during Omaha Earth Day celebrations. The display should include a description of the project, any illustrations or photos that help explain the project, and any data and conclusions you can provide about the project and its impact on your school.

Once you've made your school a deeper shade of green, we ask that you follow up with a final report on the project. It doesn't need to be long or complicated. A summary of the project and the results would be great. We will post these on the Green Omaha Coalition website and hope that it will inspire and challenge other students and schools.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact Dave Lampe at 402-496-2498, or dave.lampe@lra-inc.com.

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2011-2012 Grant Application

Names of Students on Team: _____

(Use back of sheet if necessary)

Team Leader: _____

Team Leader Email: _____

Team Leader Phone: _____

Sponsor : _____
(Teacher/Administrator)

Sponsor Email: _____

Sponsor Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Principal Signature: _____

Summary of Project (Attach a detailed description of project to the application):

(Use back of sheet if necessary)

Application deadline: November 22, 2011. All entries must be postmarked or submitted electronically by that date.
For complete rules, see www.GreenOmahaCoalition.org.